

Home Club For Mothers Succeeds

Cooperative Scheme to Care for Children of High Grade Workers May Be Extended Generally in City

WEST NINETY-SECOND STREET in the block between the Park and the "L" was amazed to see itself one night recently "all dolled up" for a block party exactly as if the year of our Lord was still 1917-1918, when that kind of festivity was common in New York. The block was roped off and at either end sat pretty ticket sellers who easily persuaded the curious passerby to come in by payment of a small fee and enjoy themselves. There was a band that played for dancing at the end nearest the park, there were flags galore and so many lights under Oriental shades that the use of the conventional term innumerable is for once almost permissible.

The building at No. 60 in this block was the centre from which all the gay features of this party emanated and it was for what this building holds that these features were inaugurated.

It is the Mothers' Cooperative Home Club, and what moneys were taken in at the party went to pay for a roof garden that was recently installed there. The women behind the club realized that a roof garden was essential to the happiness and well being of the inmates, so they put it in and then made plans to pay what it cost. That's the modern way of financing things.

The Mothers' Cooperative Home Club has not been in existence quite one year and it is still in the experimental stage, but everybody connected with it says with a happy smile that the experiment looks like a success. If it proves so, and the proof will be found in the fact that the club is self-supporting, then others will be started, some of them to be in less expensive quarters of the city.

For Those of Fair Salaries.

The idea used as the basis of this undertaking is that there are numerous mothers, widowed by the war and other causes, who have been compelled to become the wage earners of the family. These women are stenographers, bookkeepers, teachers, etc., and are in receipt of fair salaries. Fair as it may be, this salary is not adequate to pay the hire of a housekeeper, a nurse or governess to look after an apartment and the children while the mothers are at their business. Under present high rent conditions, in many cases, it is not sufficient to provide the apartment.

There are many day nurseries throughout the city where the children of working women of the manual class are cared for during certain daylight hours for a small sum, but these places do not answer the needs of the class referred to above and the cooperative Home Club does. It is modelled in a degree on a similar institution which has been established for several years in Chicago, but with this difference, the Chicago institution is partly charitable, this one in New York asks for no money from its members, but starts to pay its own way.

At the opening, the Ethical Society, with Dr. Felix Adler and his able associates, manifested a willingness to father the club. It was soon found, however, that these men and women could give little working time to the interests, and besides the connection was an incorrect conception of the club's purpose, which is to keep it strictly non-sectarian. The women, therefore, who had organized the club decided to follow it up alone. The officers are Mrs. Simon Frankel, Mrs. Lionel Suto, Mrs. Henry Wurzburg and Mrs. J. J. Frank. The resident superintendent is Miss Rae Lewis.

Mothers are received as paying guests

with children from 2 years to 12 years old. They pay for room and board (mother and child), \$17 per week; for more than one child the additional price is *pro rata*. Thus it will be seen that charity has no part in this business arrangement. When it is once entered into with an applicant the working mother may dismiss from her mind all fears about her child's welfare during the hours she is compelled to be absent from it. She breakfasts with it in the large and charming dining room and then turns it over to a nurse-instructor, whose duty it is to keep the child healthfully entertained and, in the case of the elder children, instructed in simple educational matters until the parent returns in time for dinner.

There are large play rooms fitted up to help in the child's intellectual development and games indoors are constantly going forward during the waking hours of the little ones in these rooms when the weather is too cold or inclement for outdoor exercise. But there are few days when the children do not get at least a walk in the nearby Central Park and very many days see them in this big outdoor play room all day long. The afternoon nap is, of course, insisted on.

When it is observed how large a staff of assistants is required for this kind of personal attendance, the price asked by the directors of this club will not seem excessive, being little more than the wages demanded by the ordinary child nurse.

Can Take in 25 Mothers.

The Home Club can accommodate at 60 West Ninety-second street twenty-five mothers with from one to two children each. A parent has her own room, and service is included in the sum she pays for it. The club directors were fortunate in being able to get possession of their present quarters, which would seem as ideal for their experiments as if it had been built for the express purpose.

The house was erected some seventeen years ago by Judge Keeler as a sort of community home for his married children. It is 25 feet wide and four stories above the basement. On each floor arrangements were made for the married sons and daughters to keep house if they so elected, or they could at will have their meals in the big family dining room. There is due to this arrangement more than the ordinary house conveniences on all the upper floors, including bath room and offices. At comparatively small cost changes were made, such as large rooms partitioned off into smaller ones, etc., to make the house suitable for club purposes.

There are two points the directors wish

to make clear," explained Miss Lewis, the resident superintendent, to a reporter for THE SUN AND NEW YORK HERALD; "they are that, everything else being satisfactory about an applicant, we receive mothers of every religious denomination and that there are here no institutional rules. This is just what it purports to be—a Mothers' Cooperative Club, and while we have rules, as every well conducted home must have them, ours are not widely different from home rules.

"The impression has gone abroad that we are a Jewish society; that is due to the personnel, but the directors and officers are broad minded, unprejudiced and unsectarian women of the world, whose aim is to accomplish a good thing in a fine way without being hampered by parochial ideas and to fill a real want that everybody acquainted with the situation must admit exists.

"Our children show by their facial characteristics that they come from various races and every child received here with its mother is taught morality in a universal way, the kind of ideals of honor and truth, fidelity and patriotism that are found, or should be found, in every religious sect.

"These are big words to use with regard to little children's and in fact our little ones are permitted to grow up naturally without too much stress being laid on matured systems of ethics. We look after their growing bodies and minds, but we do nothing calculated to force either one.

"The son of Jeremiah Harding was Henry, referred to above by the title often given him by Mystic people. The 'Old Squire' died October 6, 1866. He was 77 years old and is buried in River Bend Cemetery, midway between Old Mystic and Mystic.

Nearly all the living descendants of Henry Harding are residents of Mystic. The family of Henry Harding Tift and his descendants live in Tifton, Ga. Both places—Mystic, Conn., and Tifton, Ga.—feel proud of their connection, though a distant one, to the Republican party's Presidential nominee.

Squire Harding of Old Mystic, Conn., Ancestor of the Republican Nominee

OLD SQUIRE HARDING, an early resident of the town of Old Mystic, Conn., has been traced as an ancestor of Warren G. Harding, Presidential candidate of the Republican party, by the descendants of that city of the present day. It is an ancestor to be proud of, a typical New Englander, and came from Hardings who fought in the wars of the Revolution and 1812. The names of Seth, Stephen and Jeremiah Harding, which glorify the family tree, are of note in the early history of Old Mystic.

The 'Old Squire' was the postmaster of Old Mystic and the village storekeeper. He was one of the founders of the town's bank and a leader in all its enterprises. Later he represented his district in the Legislature. As a proof that among the various strains of nationality which flow in the blood of the Harding of to-day a picture of Henry Harding, 'the old Squire,' shows that he and candidate Warren G. Harding have in common more than a surname. The blood of Mystic have carefully traced out a ancestral line to show that Warren G. Harding is a true descendant of their venerated citizen.

This relationship is not so close as the citizens of Mystic would like to have it, for the record of the family tree can be produced farther back than the time of Jeremiah Harding, but there is no doubt that the Hardings now living in Mystic are direct descendants of the Harding who established the family in America, and they are convinced that Senator Harding is a relative, although of another branch of the family tree.

Hardings Before 1650.

Before the year 1650 there were no less than six early emigrants of this name to the New England colonies. These included Abraham of Massachusetts, Elizabeth, who as a widow left many descendants; George of Salem, John of Weymouth and Robert of Boston, whose children settled in Connecticut.

Henry Harding came from England in 1623. David, one of the line of Joseph, settled in Weymouth. David was a soldier

in the Revolution and no less than sixteen Hardings served in the war of 1776.

Included in that list of sixteen Revolutionary soldiers is Jeremiah Harding, progenitor of the Mystic Hardings.

The Connecticut Hardings, from whom Senator Warren G. Harding descends, were the descendants of Joseph.

It is believed, although the lineage cannot be traced back that far by the Mystic family, that Jeremiah Harding was a direct descendant of Joseph Harding.

Nathan Harding, grandfather of Warren G., was born in 1746 in Middle Haddam, George Tryon Harding, son of Nathan, is the father of Senator Harding. Starting, then, with Jeremiah, the ancestry is clear down to the present generation of Mystic Harding descendants.

Fought at New London.

Jeremiah Harding was an officer in the Regular Army at Fort Trumbull, New London. On the morning of September 6, 1781, he, with the command at Fort Trumbull, went to Fort Griswold, across the river in Groton, as a volunteer for that day's battle with the British. During the battle at Fort Griswold that day Jeremiah Harding was one of the prisoners captured and carried off by the British.

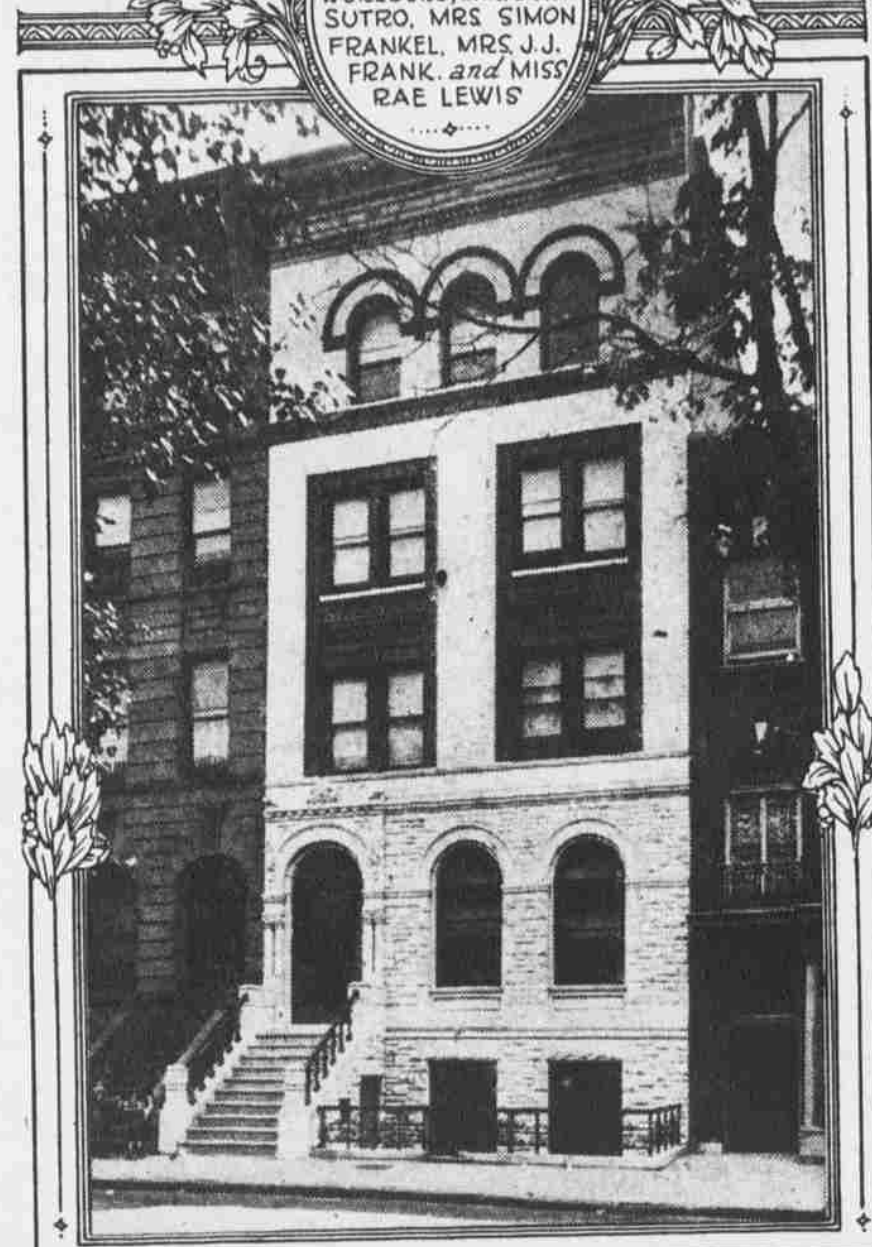
Later he was returned, however, and he appears again in the War of 1812 as having enlisted as a private from New London. Whether or not he was killed in battle is not known, but when he died he was buried with military honors by officers from Fort Trumbull. His burial was in the Old Burying Ground, which is now known as Williams Memorial Park.

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HAPPY GROUP IN THE HOME CLUB.
Right to Left—MRS. HENRY WURZBURG, MRS. SIMON FRANKEL, MRS. J.J. FRANK, and MISS RAE LEWIS



NO 60 WEST 92ND STREET, HOUSE OF THE MOTHERS COOPERATIVE HOME CLUB. (Photo by SUN-N.Y. HERALD.)

that it and use it in the winter time. It will be a great solace to the children and none of the expense of it will be felt by our cooperative boarders. Whatever we can do to make the club attractive and beneficial to our little people we mean to do, but we are not increasing the board bill to pay for added attractions.

Ample Reward in Results.

"The good this club has already done in removing anxiety from the minds of the mothers who hold good clerical positions with fair salary, but which is yet not great enough to warrant a separate establishment, has fully rewarded all the time and trouble and expense. Our mothers are happy, able to give their best work to their employers, and you can see for yourself that the children are well and happy too. It is, in fact, a happy family, and the wish of everybody who has taken the interest to come and see what we are doing is that our work will prosper and become extended."

The children boarders surely looked well kept, and by the constant ripple of that sweetest human music, child laughter, that was to be heard about the clubhouse their spirits were felt to be gay.

As the writer turned to go down the front steps of the big white and red house a band of little ones with ages ranging from 5 to 8 or 9 passed him returning from an afternoon in the park. They seemed like the happy and healthy progeny—these little half orphans—of well to do parents.

Costuming a Play

WE are apt to be impressed with the importance to the production of the bizarre costumes of such plays as "Chu Chin Chow," or costumes of a risqué character like those of the Winter Garden, or fantastic and beautiful creations like those of Leon Bakst for the Russian Ballet, or the period dressing in the "Jest," "Hamlet" and "Richard III," or the fashionable gowns for such a play as "Deceit," but we give scant consideration to the fact that any particular effort or thought has been expended in the costuming of such a simple comedy, as Rachel Crothers's clever characterization in her play, "39 East," which sketches an appealing story of youthful love against a humorous background of boarding house life.

The experienced costumer, however, will tell you that in just such a play as this, the producer faces the grave danger of over accentuation, of losing the author's subtle characterization, in attracting the attention of the audience to the clothes rather than to the character.

An eminent playwright has said, "to an audience seeing a finished production, the matter of dressing may seem a minor detail, suggesting little of the time and attention given to it. In fact, when a play is so costumed that the onlooker leaves the theatre without any dominating thought of the clothes that have been worn by the characters in the story, it is reasonably sure the producer has succeeded in giving them just the right value."

In a play like "39 East" the time of day must be given thought, and the atmosphere and manner of a typical "gentle" boarding house following, depicted. The designer must realize the potency of dress, which so truly reflects the traits and characteristics of the individual, and every means should be taken to give a faithful reproduction. A sympathetic mind for character study is of great value in this work.

The audience should not have to be told that the twins, Sadie and Myrtle Clarence, are unsophisticated, and that their clothes are remodelled homemade affairs, or that Miss McMasters represents an elderly New England spinster, with all the traditions to boot, nor that Mrs. Smith, the Southern widow, is of a somewhat feline type and disposition; her whole attire must declare it—her clothes must be exactly what such a type would be apt to select. And as for the cold, unbending henna haired, hardened boarding house keeper, the costumer could not think of anything better to reflect her type than stiff black, large figured moire, or a pretentious wine colored velvet.

All these clothes must in color as well as type be a foil for the heroine's charming and unique little figure, which must be gowned in a trim and tidy fashion, which in spite of its inexpensive simplicity must be chic and possess individuality, and so we have the bright pink chambray, the simple blue chiffon and the becoming tan jersey of Penelope Penn. The fichu is a naive touch to emphasize the desired quaintness.

In costuming a play, taste, imagination and observation are usually the main requirements; even the simplest production has its atmosphere and moods, and it remains true, that while some society plays and musical comedies are not difficult many plays that look the simplest, are, as a matter of fact, the hardest to correctly dress.

Italy Likes Cooperative Business

Costs Cut by System Started Sixty Years Ago and All Sorts of Trade Is Now Handled

THE cooperative movement which is attracting almost daily attention in Manhattan because of its assistance in meeting the soaring costs of office and home rentals, has been cutting down costs for thousands of cooperators in Italy during the last sixty years. The individual saves through the investment of the many. This fundamental principle underlies all cooperative efforts, whether they concern the purchase of an apartment house, the financing of an office skyscraper, the erection of a neighborhood garage or the control of the Italian steamship Crema, which touched at New York a few days ago.

This ship is one of five freighters recently acquired from the Italian Government by a cooperative association known as the Consorzio Garibaldi, with a membership of 31,000 marine officers and sailors. Each member of the organization is a shareholder in the fleet, participating in the profits on sales of the lemons, cherries, pumice stone and garlic which the Crema brought to America.

Famine Started the Movement.

The progress of cooperation in Italy is reviewed by the *Monthly Labor Review*, published by the United States Department of Labor, as follows:

The cooperative movement in Italy dates back to about 1854, when, in order to mitigate the effects of a famine, the General Association of Workers at Turin organized a cooperative store. Ten years later the railway officials at Turin organized a consumers' association, which had immediate success and soon was doing an annual business of over a million lire (\$193,000 par). About the same time (1864) a similar organization was formed by railway officials at Milan. Differences of opinion caused a division of the society into two societies, both of which still exist and rank among the most important societies in Italy.

The period of 1870-1890 saw the formation of a number of cooperative agricultural societies, as well as productive societies formed by various occupational groups, such as printers, joiners, blacksmiths, shoemakers, masons, dockers, etc. Though many of these latter failed because of "their inability to conquer the individual spirit of their members," enough were successful to demonstrate the feasibility of this form of cooperative enterprise.

The National Cooperative League was formed at the first National Congress, held at Milan in October, 1886. This league is composed of societies representing all types of cooperative effort. Since the formation of the league the number of affiliated societies has increased from thirty-six in 1886 to 3,000 in 1919.

It is stated that in the last few months the number of cooperative societies in Italy has grown to 10,000. The societies are small, however, the average membership being 150.

Figures collected by the Italian National Cooperative League show that the 7,249 societies for which information was obtained are divided according to type of society as follows:

Consumers' societies.....	3,814
Productive and labor societies.....	2,351
Agricultural societies.....	425
Miscellaneous societies.....	425
Federations of societies.....	234

Total 7,249

Fifty of the most important societies did a combined business of 280,000,000 lire (\$54,040,000 par) during 1918 and exceeded this figure in 1919. The Cooperative Union at Milan alone had a turnover of 70,000,000 lire (\$13,510,000 par), and the Cooperative Alliance at Turin of 40,000,000 lire (\$7,720,000 par).

The labor societies form a special phase of the cooperative movement in Italy. These societies undertake contracts for work which is performed by the members. It is reported that in some provinces these cooperative societies have practically driven private contractors out of business. The cooperative labor societies of Reggio were given the work of reconstructing the Reggio-Ciano Railway, and have for the last ten years been responsible for its management.

Another distinctive feature of the Italian movement is the collective leaseholding societies organized generally for the purpose of finding employment for their members. Though according to reports these societies have not acquired sufficient land to provide continuous employment for their members, their work has resulted in a distinct improvement in this respect. The following statement shows the amount of land cultivated by the collective leaseholding societies in each province:

	Acres.
Bergamo	2,189
Milan	2,241
Pavia	1,203
Parma	2,901
Reggio d'Emilia	3,571
Modena	240
Bologna	4,435
Ravenna	17,297
Ferrara	1,011
Sigily	70,137

Total 105,225

Electricity in Wire Fences

SOME time ago the Department of Agriculture was led by complaints from farmers to investigate the cause of the corrosion of wire fences. Experts concluded that the cause of the trouble was a metallurgical problem. The older iron wire is said to be more durable than the steel wire later introduced. The results of the tests made seem to indicate that manganese in the wire may have something to do with the corrosion. Manganese dissolved in iron up to a certain amount increases the electrical resistance, but if the manganese is not uniformly distributed electric currents may be generated in the wire when wet with rain, leading to corrosion by electrolysis. The deep pitting observed in corroded wire is said to be characteristic of electrolytic action.

She Got the Yellow Pitcher

FOR thrills certain and cheap many women prefer the auction room to the best melodrama ever written, but it is the innocent who gets most of them and reacts most violently. Quite recently a housekeeper noticed the red flag up on a house in her neighborhood, and after looking the offerings over she informed her husband that she meant to attend the sale and acquire, if possible, two side chairs which had caught her fancy. He advised her to be careful and protect her pocket by taking with her a sum of money not exceeding \$5. And this measure of precaution she promised to observe.

On the day of the auction she went early and got a good seat, but a long wait intervened between the first articles put up and the chairs she fancied. One of these articles was a small yellow pitcher. The first bid called forth was 15 cents. Mercy! thought the innocent, the pitcher must be worth more than that, so she raised the bid to 25

cents. The first bidder rose to 35 cents, and thinking that she wouldn't let her opponent walk away with the prize for such an insignificant sum she went to 50 cents. By this time her face was flushed and the usual thing happened.

"Sixty cents, 75 cents, \$1.25, and a half, and a half, make it \$2?" She nodded, but the old game went on, and with every raise she felt more determined that every woman should not have the little yellow pitcher. As she reached \$4.50 opposition ceased and the innocent cried out:

"Did I get it?"

"You got it," replied the auctioneer. That night at dinner her husband remarked jocosely that he presumed the two side chairs wouldn't come home till next day, and added: "Of course you did not spend more than \$5?"

"No, I didn't; I spent only \$4.50, and I bought—I bought!" But she could not bring herself to tell him, for by this time she had waked up.